



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 5, 2006

H.R. 3443

An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on March 15, 2006*

H.R. 3443 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities that are a part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3443 would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District has fulfilled all repayment obligations associated with the project. Under current law, the district pays all operations and maintenance costs for the project. In addition, H.R. 3443 would have no effect on the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA's) repayment obligation for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Under current law, WAPA will repay \$72 million in construction costs for the project by 2051.

H.R. 3443 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Accepting the land conveyance authorized in this act would be voluntary on the part of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Any costs they might incur to comply with the conditions of conveyance would be incurred voluntarily.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Julie Middleton. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.